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1	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
2	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
3	Case No. 22-10964-mg
4	x
5	In the Matter of:
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7	CELSIUS NETWORK, LLC,
8	
9	Debtor.
10	x
11	United States Bankruptcy Court
12	One Bowling Green
13	New York, NY 10004
14	
15	September 18, 2023
16	3:59 PM
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21	BEFORE:
22	HON MARTIN GLENN
23	U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE
24	
25	ECRO: JONATHAN

Page 2 HEARING re Hearing Using Zoom for Government RE: Discovery Dispute Between Unsecured Creditors Committee and with Three Pro Se Creditors - Otis Davis, Zach Wildes, and Santos Caceres (Doc# 3464, 3468, 3476) Transcribed by: Sonya Ledanski Hyde 

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	Page 3
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Pg 4 of 26	
	Page 4
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JASMINE ARMAND	
DEAN LINDSAY CHAPMAN	
CHRISTOPHER J. COCO	
THOMAS DIFIORE	
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KEITH WOFFORD	
ANDREW YOON	
TANZILA ZOMO	
UDAY GORREPATI	
	SANTOS CACERES, Pro Se  ALSO PRESENT:  JASMINE ARMAND  DEAN LINDSAY CHAPMAN  CHRISTOPHER J. COCO  THOMAS DIFIORE  SCOTT DUFFY  SEAN ANDREW FEENER  MIRA HAQQANI  SAMUEL P. HERSHEY  JEFFREY S. KRAMER  NICHOLAS R. LOMBARDI  KEITH NOYES  CAITLIN O'CONNELL  GREGORY F. PESCE  MARK ROBINSON  ELIZABETH D. SCOTT  MICHAEL STANLEY  DAVID TURETSKY  CAROLINE WARREN  KEITH WOFFORD  ANDREW YOON  TANZILA ZOMO

PROCEEDINGS

THE COURT: Good afternoon to everybody. So this conference was set at the request of the Committee. So, Mr. Hershey, are you going to be speaking today, or Mr. Colodny?

MR. HERSHEY: I am, Your Honor, yes.

THE COURT: All right. Go ahead, Mr. Hershey.

MR. HERSHEY: Thank you, Your Honor. Sam Hershey, from White & Case, for the Committee. I apologize if the Court was ready a few minutes ago. I had trouble connecting, but I'm glad Your Honor can apparently see and hear me now.

Your Honor, we're here today for a conference in connection with certain discovery regarding CEL token valuation that the Committee served on three individuals that Santos Caceres, Zachary Wildes, and Otis Davis -- excuse me -- Otis Davis.

At the time we requested the conference, none of these three individuals had provided any response to the written discovery by the September 1st deadline in the confirmation schedule, which schedule is that Docket Number 3356, or produced any discovery to the Committee by the September 11th deadline in that schedule.

So let me start with the good news. After this conference was scheduled, the Committee continued its efforts to speak with these three individuals. And two of

them, Mr. Caceres and Mr. Wildes, willingly engaged with us.

We had several conversations with Mr. Caceres and Mr.

Wildes, and they provided the Committee with certain

document discovery.

I'm pleased to report that the Committee and Mr.

Caceres and Mr. Wildes have not only resolved their disputes regarding discovery, but also their disputes regarding the valuation of the CEL token in connection with the plan. And specifically, Mr. Caceres and Mr. Wildes have informed the Committee they do not intend to object to the Debtors' plan of reorganization, including the valuation of the CEL token at 25 cents, and have entered into a settlement agreement with the Debtors and with the Committee to that effect.

And we actually just filed a version of -- or the settlement agreement on the docket. It's at Docket Number 3486. And when I say we just filed it, it was within the last 15 minutes, so I assume the Court has not seen it. But that's where it is for the Court's reference.

That leaves Mr. Davis. Unfortunately, this conference remains necessary as to him. Mr. Davis has acknowledged receipt of our discovery requests. He has acknowledged receipt of our request to meet and confer regarding the discovery requests, including the one we sent after this conference was scheduled. And he has written to us, telling us that he refuses to speak with us.

I'll add that about an hour before this conference started, I received a call from Mr. Davis's newly retained Counsel, Ira Pollack, who I believe is on the line. I asked Mr. Pollack to try to persuade Mr. Davis to speak with us about the discovery. I told him to tell Mr. Davis that we are prepared to be reasonable and work with Mr. Davis, as we have with Mr. Casares and Mr. Wildes. And I understand from Mr. Pollack that Mr. Davis again refused to speak with us. Now, Mr. Davis has suggested that we are bullying him as a pro se creditor. The opposite is true. The record reflects that we have treated Mr. Davis and the other pro se creditors on whom we serve discovery with the utmost respect and understanding. THE COURT: Let me just stop you for a minute, Mr. Hershey. MR. HERSEY: Sure. Go ahead. THE COURT: And Mr. Pollack is on my screen and he indicated he is -- I don't know whether -- Mr. Pollack, have you filed your appearance on behalf of Mr. Davis yet? You have to unmute. Mr. Pollack, you have to unmute. Mr. Pollack, you have to unmute. MR. POLLACK: Sorry, Judge, I was -- I'm working on it. No, I have not filed my appearance as yet. I first spoke with Mr. Davis late last night and this afternoon, when I got back from Court.

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Page 9 1 Is it correct that you are appearing THE COURT: 2 on his behalf? 3 MR. POLLACK: Yes, sir. THE COURT: Okay. And you will file a notice of 4 5 appearance? 6 MR. POLLACK: Yes, sir. 7 THE COURT: Okay. All right. So, you know, I 8 stopped you, Mr. Hershey, because now that Mr. Davis is 9 represented by counsel, you can't speak to him without his 10 lawyer's agreement, and he doesn't have to speak to you. 11 So, you know, Mr. Pollack's being retained certainly changes 12 that part of the landscape. It doesn't change whether or 13 not Mr. Davis is required to respond to discovery, whether 14 he was already required to respond and failed to do so, and 15 what, if any, consequences should come from that. 16 May I ask you, Mr. Hershey, have you tried to 17 resolve -- and I know that Mr. Pollack is very new to the 18 case and the representation of Mr. Davis -- have you tried 19 to resolve the discovery issues with Mr. Pollack? MR. HERSHEY: Well, no, Your Honor. I mean, to be 20 21 clear, when I spoke to Mr. Pollack, I asked for a call with 22 him and his client, understanding that Mr. Pollack would 23 need to be on the line and we couldn't speak to Mr. Davis 24 directly. 25 My understanding is that -- and that -- the point

of that conversation would have been to try to resolve the dispute. I was hoping, frankly, if we could, to cancel this conference, since we have resolved with, at that point, (indiscernible) everyone. My understanding is Mr. Davis did not want to have that conversation directly with us.

THE COURT: And look, now that he's retained by counsel, he doesn't have to. Okay? He could have turned you down anyway, even -- you know, there are consequences for not responding to time -- you know, to discovery. But putting that aside, he was not -- he didn't have to communicate with you. He now has an attorney. And you can't communicate with him, without his attorney's agreement. So that's kind of water under the bridge.

I see Mr. Davis's hand raised, the Zoom hand raised. But let me say, you know, Mr. Pollack, I'm happy to hear from your client, but you tell me whether you want him to speak on the record.

MR. POLLACK: Well, Your Honor, what I would say is this. I did speak with Mr. Hershey. I did suggest that we have a three-way with Mr. Davis, myself and Mr. Hershey, and anyone else from White & Case, as I notice they have two or three different offices that may be involved in this case. And that perhaps we could work things out.

THE COURT: Look, I assume that Mr. Hershey is taking the lead on this issue. And Mr. Hershey, I assume

Page 11 1 you're the one he should speak with? 2 MR. HERSHEY: That's correct, Your Honor. 3 THE COURT: Which is fine. You don't have any --MR POLLACK: (indiscernible) 5 THE COURT: You don't have any confusion about who 6 to try and resolve this with. Okay. 7 MR. POLLACK: Okay. But I certainly want to 8 resolve the discovery portion of the matter and I suggested 9 that we have a conference. My client suggested that we 10 appear before Your Honor, just to -- since the conference 11 was scheduled, which we are doing, and after the conference 12 and before Mr. Hershey is forced to make any motions, I 13 would like to be able to put together some sort of 14 conference to try to resolve the discovery, which I don't 15 see as being too difficult. 16 THE COURT: Okay, let me let me say this. So, Mr. 17 Davis' hand is raised. So, what has been the procedure in 18 this case throughout, omnibus hearings, whatever hearings 19 we've had with remote participation, I will recognize 20 individuals who wish to be heard. And that's certainly --21 but I'm only going through that because, you know, if you 22 don't want Mr. Davis to speak on the record, he doesn't have to. If he wants to, I'm willing to hear from him. So, do 23 you want him to be able to speak on the record? 24 25 (indiscernible)?

Page 12 1 I have nothing. There's nothing --MR. DAVIS: 2 THE COURT: It's not a trick question. It's not -3 4 MR. POLLACK: No, I know, Judge. MR. DAVIS: It's not a lot --5 6 MR. POLLACK: It's at this point I would try to 7 text him and find out if he really wants to speak. 8 THE COURT: Well --9 MR. POLLACK: I will let him speak. 10 THE COURT: Okay. 11 MR. POLLACK: Otis --12 THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Davis. 13 MR. POLLACK: -- I know you want to speak. Please 14 speak up. 15 MR. DAVIS: Judge, I just want to say that they 16 sent me a request for production of documents. Your name 17 was not on it. Then they said it was a subpoena. I said, I 18 don't see a subpoena. I never received a subpoena. 19 sent me a subpoena, then I'm compelled. Now they filed documents in the court -- I don't have the docket number --20 21 saying they served me with a subpoena. And I said, you did 22 not serve me with a subpoena. It's a discovery request. I 23 don't have to respond to you. And this got out of hand. So I retained an 24 25 attorney --

Page 13 1 THE COURT: Okav. 2 -- because I do not have to respond to MR. DAVIS: 3 them. THE COURT: Well, that's -- we won't -- I'm not 4 5 going to debate or decide today whether you have to respond. 6 You've appeared in this case. I think you've spoken on the 7 record before. 8 MR. DAVIS: Yes. Yes, I have. 9 So it is, particularly with the THE COURT: Yeah. 10 confirmation hearing starting on October 2nd, it is very 11 proper for the Committee to seek discovery from you with 12 respect to the issues that are coming up in this hearing. 13 And obviously, valuation of the CEL token is a giant issue. 14 I've -- you know, I know that many Earn account holders and 15 you know, those who hold CEL -- who received CEL tokens, 16 many feel strongly about the issue, and that's fine. 17 But at the same time, the plan that's been 18 proposed proposes to compensate CEL token holders at 25 19 cents. Originally it was 20 cents; increased to 25 cents. 20 I'm not saying whether that's correct, not correct, or 21 anything. But because this is an issue for the 22 confirmation, they're entitled to take discovery from you. 23 Okay? 24 MR. DAVIS: Okay. 25 And, but look --THE COURT:

	Page 14
1	MR. DAVIS: Judge, I'm willing to give it to them,
2	but I wanted to hear it from you.
3	THE COURT: Okay. Well, you've
4	MR. DAVIS: I wanted to hear it from you, because
5	they're saying they served me with a subpoena and they did
6	not.
7	THE COURT: I don't know whether they did or
8	didn't. Let me just say that right now.
9	MR. DAVIS: (indiscernible) didn't you
10	THE COURT: I don't know
11	MR. DAVIS: Wouldn't you have to sign that
12	subpoena?
13	THE COURT: No.
14	MR. DAVIS: They did not serve me with a subpoena.
15	
16	THE COURT: It's issued look
17	MR. POLLACK: Otis, we'll take it up
18	MR. DAVIS: Yeah
19	THE COURT: No, Mr. Davis
20	MR. POLLACK: Let's take it up later.
21	MR. DAVIS: Yeah.
22	THE COURT: This this may sound unusual to you,
23	but it's on a form a subpoenas is not a form issued by
24	the Court. Lawyers are authorized to sign those subpoenas.
25	If they're disputed, I will hear a dispute. But that in

Page 15 1 itself, I don't know -- Mr. Hershey -- let me, Mr. Hershey, 2 did you serve a subpoena on Mr. Davis? 3 MR. HERSHEY: We did not, Your Honor. I don't think we've ever represented that we have. 4 5 THE COURT: Okay. 6 MR. HERSHEY: Just to be clear, if I may, Your 7 Honor, Mr. Davis has filed an objection to disclosure 8 statement that focused mainly on the treatment of CEL 9 tokens. After that, he filed a motion regarding the 10 formation of a CEL token committee and valuing CEL token at 11 81 cents. 12 So he is a party to several contested matters. 13 Obviously, confirmation itself is a contested matter. And 14 so, we didn't think we needed to serve a subpoena. We did 15 just serve discovery requests directly on him --16 THE COURT: All right. 17 MR. HERSHEY: -- as a party. 18 THE COURT: Let me suggest this. Mr. Hershey, Mr. 19 Pollack, Mr. Davis, why don't you speak as soon as this hear 20 -- can you do that, Mr. Pollack? Can you speak as soon as 21 this hearing is over? 22 MR. POLLACK: Yes, Sir. 23 THE COURT: See if you can resolve this. Okay? 24 I'm very appreciative that, you know, with Mr. Caceres and 25 Mr. Wildes, if the issues have been resolved, that's fine.

Page 16 1 Look, I'm pleased that most of the discovery issues that 2 have ever come up in this case have been resolved 3 consensually. 4 What I do is to try and avoid the necessity of 5 expensive motion practice and time-consuming motion 6 practice. So, when a party needs the assistance of the 7 Court in connection with the discovery dispute, we set a 8 conference as soon as the Court is able to do that. 9 what we did -- we've done here. 10 And in setting the conference, I think I made 11 clear this is not an evidentiary hearing. I wanted to see 12 whether -- what the issues are, whether they can be 13 resolved. 14 What I would like for you to do is -- and Mr. 15 Wildes, I'll recognize you in a moment. Mr. Pollack, Mr. 16 Davis, Mr. Colodny, see -- hopefully, you will be able to 17 resolve these issues and confer. May I ask this? Mr. 18 Hershey, do you have Mr. Davis -- do you have Mr. Pollack's contact information, so you can -- when we end this hearing, 19 20 you can contact him directly? 21 MR. HERSHEY: Yes, we do. 22 MR. COLODNY: Yes, Sir, I do. THE COURT: Okay. So, why don't you do that? And 23 24 if you can't resolve it and we still need a hearing, it 25 won't be today, it may be tomorrow -- I'll do my best.

Page 17 1 got lots of hearings coming up. But the hearing about 2 discovery before -- the confirmation hearing is very soon to 3 start. Okay? Let's see if we can get this resolved. Mr. Wildes, let me recognize you. You've got your 4 5 hand raised. Go ahead and speak. 6 MR. WILDES: Thank you, Your Honor. No, I'm happy 7 that we're able to resolve the dispute. I had some 8 conversations over the weekend with Mr. Colodny and Mr. 9 Hershey and got everything resolved. And they even said 10 they weren't going to object to paying my attorney's fees. 11 So I really appreciate them for doing that. 12 And, yeah, I just wanted to echo that I believe 13 when they wrote a letter to you, they did talk about a 14 subpoena. And again, I'm not a lawyer. Otis wasn't a 15 lawyer, and they were coming very aggressive, and we just 16 didn't quite understand what they were asking when they made 17 those initial requests. But I'm glad this is moving forward. And thanks, Your Honor, for all your work in this 18 19 case. 20 THE COURT: Okay. Thanks very much, Mr. Wildes. 21 Mr. Pollack, is there anything else you want to say? 22 MR. POLLACK: No, Your Honor. Thank you. THE COURT: Okay. Anybody else who wishes to be 23 24 heard? 25 MR. HERSHEY: Your Honor, can I make one more

brief point? The deadline for depositions is this Wednesday, and if we end up getting documents from Mr. Davis, we will probably want some time to review those before we depose him. So we'd like to ask for a brief extension of that deadline for the depositions. THE COURT: All right. I'm certainly going to be agreeable to a reasonable extension of the deadline. Work with Mr. Pollack and hopefully get this resolved. Okay? MR. HERSHEY: Thank you, Your Honor. THE COURT: All right. MR. HERSHEY: I do have one more small point. know, Mr. Caceres and Mr. Davis -- excuse me -- and Mr. Wildes may submit applications for substantial contribution. The deadline for those is Wednesday as well, and they asked if they could have a short extension for that to sometime next week, just given they're pro se and we only recently settled. THE COURT: That agreeable to me. See if you can agree on it a -- I'm sure you're going to be able to work out with them. I am -- I'm certainly willing to grant a reasonable extension to do that. Okay. What I would ask you to do is agree on a date certain, put it in a letter to the Court. Okay? MR. HERSHEY: You got it, Your Honor. Thank you. THE COURT: Mr. Caceres, let me -- I'll hear you

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Pg 19 of 26 Page 19 1 next and then Mr. Koenig. Go ahead, Mr. Caceres. MR. CACERES: Can you hear me, Your Honor? 2 3 THE COURT: Yes, I can. Go ahead. MR. CACERES: I just want to thank Your Honor for 4 5 all the work we've been doing this last year. We've reached 6 a settlement agreement with the UCC, and we believe that 7 it's time for us to exit Chapter 11. It's been a long year of litigation and just -- we're ready to exit and we're 8 9 ready to support NewCo and just be successful. 10 THE COURT: Look, you know, I decide the issues 11 that come before me. From day one, I've hoped that this 12 case could result in a consensual plan that could be confirmed. There have been a lot of difficult issues and 13 14 there still may be during the during the confirmation hearing. 15 We'll take them one at a time. 16 What I've tried to do is provide an opportunity 17 for people like yourself. You've appeared multiple times at 18 hearings and I've tried as best I can always to listen to 19 whatever pro se creditors have to say. Okay? 20 MR. CACERES: Thank you, Your Honor. THE COURT: All right. Thank you. 00:17:01 Mr. 21 22 Mendelson, you're next. 23 MR. MENDELSON: Thank you, Your Honor. Happy Monday. Has -- and I'm not sure who's -- would the courts 24

or the UCC or Celsius consider putting the Celsius -- the

Page 20 1 CEL token holders in different creditor buckets? Meaning, 2 the creditors that participated in the alleged CEL 81 cent squeeze be considered differently than real innocent CEL 3 creditors that didn't participate in the squeeze, as 4 5 referenced by the UCC's report and also mentioned in the 6 Roni Cohen-Pavon criminal case that he's going through? 7 THE COURT: Well, let me say a plan was proposed, 8 the disclosure statement was approved, with the 9 classification that's proposed. You ought to talk with the 10 Debtors' counsel and the Committee's counsel. That's what's 11 up before me for confirmation. I don't -- you know, if you 12 have an objection and you timely file a written object -- I 13 entered an order last Friday that -- it was nothing new. 14 reminded everybody of the deadline for filing written 15 objections to confirmation. That's still your ability to do 16 that. And if presented with contested issues, I'll resolve 17 the contested issues. But I can't -- that's not something I 18 negotiate about. Let me put it that way, Mr. Mendelson. 19 Okay? 20 MR. DAVIS: What is that deadline, Judge, for the 21 record? 22 THE COURT: I'm sorry? When is the deadline for confirmation 23 MR. DAVIS: 24 objection?

MR. KOENIG: Your Honor, it's Chris Koenig, from

Page 21 1 Kirkland & Ellis, on behalf of Celsius, if I --2 THE COURT: It's the -- go ahead. MR. KOENIG: It's the 22nd. This Friday, the 22nd 3 at 4:00 PM, I believe. 4 5 MR. DAVIS: Thank you. 6 THE COURT: And that's not just recently set. 7 That was in an order quite some time ago that was entered. 8 And I entered an order on case management procedures for the 9 confirmation hearing, and I actually quoted from that prior 10 order as to the deadline for objections. So, that's not 11 changing. Okay. 12 Mr. Davis, did you want to be heard again, or is 13 your hand just still raised? 14 MR. DAVIS: I'm sorry. I'll lower my hand. 15 just wanted to know the deadline for objection. 16 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Koenig, did you want to be 17 heard? MR. KOENIG: I did, Your Honor. 18 Thank you. 19 Again, Chris Koenig, for the record. Just really briefly. 20 We're pleased to be able to reach this resolution. We've 21 been trying to reach a settlement on CEL token. Obviously, 22 we have a little bit more work to do and we're going to be 23 watching the votes as they come in on the plan to see how 24 that comes out. 25 But just wanted to note that the issue of the

Page 22 1 deadline for the substantial contribution motions came up 2 and we just wanted to alert Your Honor that we've agreed to extend that deadline out for all parties. The U.S. Trustee 3 and some other parties wanted some additional time on that 4 5 deadline. So we expect to file a revised form of order with 6 the Court via letter. 7 THE COURT: Okay. What's --8 MR. KOENIG: Which would apply to everybody. 9 THE COURT: What's the new deadline to apply? 10 MR. KOENIG: It would be a one-week extension. 11 believe the deadline is currently this Wednesday. It would 12 be moved to next Wednesday the 27th, and then those 13 applications would be heard at the omnibus hearing at the 14 end of October. 15 THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much, Mr. 16 Koenig. 17 MR. KOENIG: Thank you, Your Honor. 18 THE COURT: Is there anybody else who wishes to be 19 heard? Mr. Koenig, what's the deadline for voting? 20 MR. KOENIG: This Friday. This Friday, 4:00 PM. 21 THE COURT: Okay. 22 MR. KOENIG: And we'll be submitting our voting 23 report early next week with the tabulated results. 24 THE COURT: See where we get to? 25 MR. KOENIG: Yes.

Page 23 1 THE COURT: Okay. All right. So, hopefully --2 MR. COLODNY: Your Honor? 3 THE COURT: Mr. Colodny? MR. COLODNY: Yeah, Your Honor. Aaron Colodny, 4 5 from White & Case, on behalf of the Official Committee of 6 Unsecured Creditors. There were a couple of other briefing 7 deadlines in our proposed confirmation calendar, which I 8 believe you had agreed to. The first is a response to the 9 CEL token legal brief, which we had previously filed, which 10 is due on Wednesday. So I didn't want that to be lost in 11 the confirmation objections. 12 And then we had proposed in that order, a hearing 13 on those legal issues on September 28th. And I didn't know 14 if that was calendared yet, or if Your Honor wanted to defer 15 those to the beginning of confirmation. 16 THE COURT: Bear with me a second, okay? 17 MR. COLODNY: And I believe that that schedule is at Docket Number 3356, Your Honor, if you (indiscernible) 18 19 the document. 20 THE COURT: 3356? 21 MR. COLODNY: That's correct. 22 THE COURT: Well, it is on my calendar for Thursday, September 28th at 10:00. We'll go forward if we 23 24 need to, if it's not resolved. 25 MR. COLODNY: Great.

THE COURT: You know, let me say, I think it should be obvious to everyone the Court's calendar is packed. And I recognize the importance of resolving issues very timely. And I've tried to do that throughout this I'm sure it's a challenge for all of you as well. And you know, we just keep firing away. I don't want -- what's hard for me is, like, with the discovery conference. This was requested. I scheduled it as quickly as I possibly could. I'm glad that two of the three were resolved and I hope that the third will be resolved after our call today. This is a press as we get into the confirmation hearing, particularly in light of the changes from the Judicial Conference on how the hearings have to be conducted. That's why I issued the procedures order last week, last Friday. I made clear if parties in interest think there should be any modifications or additions, I'm open to considering that, but we'll push forward. Okay? Anything else for today? Thank you very much. MAN: Nothing, Your Honor. THE COURT: We're adjourned. Mr. Pollack, you know --MR. POLLACK: Yes, Sir. THE COURT: -- be in touch and see if you can get this discovery -- with your client and with counsel for the

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Page 25 Committee, Mr. Hershey, and let's see if we can get this resolved. Okay? MR. POLLACK: Yes, Sir. Thank you. THE COURT: Thanks very much. Okay. MR. POLLACK: Have a nice day, everybody. THE COURT: We are adjourned. MR. HERSHEY: Thank you, Your Honor. (Whereupon these proceedings were concluded at 4:23 PM) 

Page 26 1 CERTIFICATION 2 3 I, Sonya Ledanski Hyde, certified that the foregoing 4 transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. 5 Songa M. deslarski Hydl 6 7 8 Sonya Ledanski Hyde 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 Veritext Legal Solutions 21 330 Old Country Road 22 Suite 300 Mineola, NY 11501 23 24 25 Date: October 13, 2023